

**Q: My husband and I recently moved into housing, and we live on Dakota Drive. I understand that this is the main road, therefore there is a lot of traffic. That isn't what concerns me, I don't mind the amount of cars that go through there, it's the speed at which they do. The speed limit is clearly 15 MPH, there are signs all throughout housing, and a sign right when you enter base stating the speed limits for different areas to include housing. I understand that this has been an issue before as I've seen it written to you before, but I haven't seen the issue fixed. Last weekend in a matter of a couple of minutes I watched 5 cars come through while unloading groceries, and all 5 of those were going above 15 MPH, 3 of which were in uniform. We have 2 young children, as do many other families in housing, and there is no reason that anyone should fly through housing. I spoke to the gate guard about it the other day, and he told me that the best option is to get their license plate number and call the SF desk, but I don't sit out on my deck with a pen and paper, nor will that do anything to address the issue. He also told me that the number of patrol officers isn't many, and the majority of them aren't LiDAR Certified.... Why not? I understand the last time this issue was brought up there were many citations given out in the few days you had SF monitoring the area, but I think it's due time again for this, because the issue is continuous. The last thing we need living in family housing is for a parent to put their child down for one minute and have them run out into the street and have a car hit them. Can you please do something more permanent to address this? Thank you.**

The information you received from one of our Entry Controllers was inaccurate; we currently have 121 Security Forces personnel certified on speed measuring devices. In just the last three weeks, our patrolmen have conducted 184 selective enforcement patrols utilizing either RADAR or LIDAR speed measuring devices, with 15 speeding citations issued. Of these 184 selective enforcement patrols, 27 have been conducted on Dakota Drive. We will continue to enforce the speed limit across the base to the best of our ability.

**Q: I was recently speaking with a member of the Civil Engineering office and was told that the families living in Centennial will be told to vacate within the next few months, and that civilian families are already living on base in Centennial housing and more will be moved in within the next few months. This is in contrast to what I have been told in the past and I was hopeful you could clear up any misconceptions. Are civilian families already being moved into Centennial Housing? Will military families already living in Centennial be required to vacate to make room for the civilian families being moved in?**

I'll be discussing this more at length at my 9 Sep commander's call, however, the short answer is no. The 828 houses in Centennial are on a long term lease that expires at the end of Jul 11. Airmen living there will get to decide whether they want to stay and sign a private lease with the owner (expected to be about the same cost with utilities included) or get a paid move elsewhere--it's up to you. More to come 9 Sep.

**Q: Is there any way a sidewalk could be built along the street between the Roosevelt Dormitory and the Shoppette? I know there is a lot of construction going on with the new gate so maybe this could be added for construction. Right now, there is a walking path leading from the softball fields to the street beside the dorm but no corresponding sidewalk to continue travel. I have seen families walking this path have to cross the street and travel through the busy Shoppette parking lot to meet up with the sidewalk on the east side of the Shoppette. This**

**is done because there is no side walk from the east side of Roosevelt Dormitory leading toward family housing. My suggestion is to build a sidewalk for families walking toward Rushmore Housing/CDC/Camping area or dorm residents traveling east from their dorm versus walking in the street. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.**

This is one of the areas we have a plan to build a sidewalk. However, the reality is sidewalks are expensive and frequently go unfunded (one short sidewalk can be \$50k). My focus right now is to ensure we have an operable path between Prairie View and the rest of the base during gate construction--we'll get the permanent sidewalk there back soon and demolish the temporary one that now has weeds growing through it.

**Q: I have a question regarding the uniform wear of Flight Suits here at Ellsworth. Is it authorized here to have sleeves rolled up and name tags that say "FNG" on Flight Suits in public areas (ex. Base Exchange)? I have been stationed several places and I have never seen this before. Is there a local policy for this?**

First, our philosophy is that an authorized uniform is an authorized uniform. I've tasked the FSS to review the Ellsworth supp to see if we can eliminate Ellsworth specific guidance on uniforms. That said, combat aviators everywhere routinely wear some different items on Fridays: nametags with callsigns, squadron specific T-shirts, and a left sleeve patch that recognizes a specific event or accomplishment. Aviators without callsigns wear "FNG" or "Egg" until one is assigned. Sleeves are not supposed to be rolled up.

**Q: Sir, I was wondering about the new policy for base housing about swimming pools. it says no pool over 12inches deep. my children love to play in their blow up pool when it gets hot out. I empty it at night like im supposed to but now because of the new policy they cannot do that. the only pool that is not over twelve inches deep are the hard plastic ones at the store. but what if the parents want to sit in the pool with the kids? its impossible with those small ones. i think its unfair to force families to go to a base pool if they do not want to. can we do something about this new unfair policy for housing?**

We discovered when this policy was originally made, 12" was the industry standard for the kind of pool you describe. Now the industry standard is 18" deep. We're adjusting the policy to match that standard--you can have a pool 18" deep.

**Q: Today at 5 a.m. I was again awakened by the Air Force testing jet engines. This went on for about an hour. Is it possible to do this testing at a more reasonable time? Please do not take this as a criticism of the base--I think everyone in Rapid City admires the job the base staff does. It just seems that 5 a.m. is just a little early for this type of noise. Thank you for your attention to this matter.**

Unfortunately, the health of the B-1 fleet doesn't allow us to be picky about when we work on the aircraft. Our maintainers work 24-hours a day getting aircraft ready to fly, not because they like to work all night, but because the mission requires it.

**Q: I was recently medically evacuated out of Afghanistan for a diagnosis of type 1 diabetes. Per my PA I will be evaluated by a medical board where my future career with the USAF will be**

**determined. However, my PA was unable to tell me if my chances of staying in were either good or bad. I have researched as much information on the internet as possible, but have found little information on this subject. Are you aware of any active duty type 1 diabetics currently stationed at Ellsworth? Any insight would really be helpful; thank you for your time.**

It would be unwise for us to speculate on your chances, as every case is different. Our Medical Group and your commander will look hard at the details of the case and your situation to make this decision. There isn't hard and fast guidance to accurately predict your case. However, we're an expeditionary force, and our Airmen need to be able to deploy.

**Q: I am a former Air Force and current airline pilot with over 20,000 flight hours. I am very interested in joining the newly assigned RPV mission at Ellsworth AFB. I am trying to stay within the chain of command, but I have been unable to get much information from public affairs, Air Force Personnel, or usajobs.gov.**

**I assume RPV pilot positions are military (not civilian contract) and I would like any information you could provide regarding when jobs may be offered, and how I might go about getting considered for an RPV pilot position. I was happy to see this mission come to Ellsworth and I would appreciate any direction you could offer.**

We're still learning what the manning for this new unit will look like, however, at present it appears all the flying positions will be active duty officers. We looked into other options for you like "rated recall" but those programs are no longer open either. There are a collection of guard units that do some of this flying, but not at Ellsworth. We will continue to use USAjobs if positions do emerge, however that won't be until late 2011--this unit stands up Jan 12.

**Q: Since the installation of the retractable road blockades, the speed limits on those respective sections of road have changed. Some of us have better common sense than others, however, one of my airmen was pulled over after entering the main gate alongside of the first lake. He said he thought it was a 35 mph zone like it has been for the past 3 years he's been here. In fact I had to tell my wife to slow down once for the same reason, not knowing of the changed speed limit. I know there is a sign that explains all speed limits are 25 mph unless otherwise marked as soon as you enter base and I have instructed my airman as such. I was wondering if we could put up some actual speed limit signs on those two roads for a better visual aid to ensure there are no more accidental speeding infractions in that area.**

Since we're closing that area for construction in two weeks we're already planning on relooking all the signage after the construction is complete. I agree that it should be simple and clear and we'll work that direction with the new construction.

**Q: I'm writing in regards to the rock beds in Rushmore Heights. Over the months that we have lived in housing, we have noticed that the rock beds around the houses provide ammo for kids to throw the rocks and when they do, the rocks wind up in the street. Cars pass by and sometimes shoot the rocks from under their tires and send them a good distance across the street. Also, when residence mow their lawns, the mowers kick up the rocks and send them flying. Being that this can be a hazard to people and windows, are there any plans to do something about the rock beds?**

Parenting.